

Connect



FEARLESS.

25-26 October 2018

May 2018



Fearless 25-26 October 2018

"It's not what I expected." "When did it change?" "This must be the best kept secret of the church in Scotland." These are just some of the phrases we hear regularly as people experience their first Baptist Assembly in Scotland. As a gathering, we have been growing younger year on year. We hear more and more stories of living faith and we are encouraged by what God is doing in churches in every region of the country.



God is at work in our nation! The Baptist Assembly in Scotland gives us the opportunity to hear more about what He is doing and to connect with those He is using. It is a place to meet with other Baptists in Scotland and experience their generous support and encouragement. With up to 600 people gathering, there is an opportunity to share your story as well as to receive from the rich moving of God's Spirit among us.

The Baptist Assembly is a vital meeting place for all our churches, with most churches coming back year after year. It is a place where support and advice is given, a place for hearing news of what to expect in the coming year, a place to connect with the National Team members for ongoing encouragement, guidance and advice.

The Assembly is open to all our churches, and to any individual in our churches who wishes to come and participate. Booking opens online in mid-May with significant discounts for early bookings. www.scottishbaptist.com/assembly/

Here is what Paul Finch from Bridge of Don had to say after last year...



“I arrived in Motherwell with messages of hope, reflecting particularly on the growing success of some targeted outreach that our church at Bridge of Don is doing around Messy Church and our Striders Café. During the Assembly the teaching on what hospitality really means truly struck home and continues to challenge me. This was further exemplified by Juliet Kilpin’s very powerful messages from the refugee camps in Calais - along with her practical advice for breaking down our own internal barriers, and barriers within our communities. And so I left Motherwell having had a good hard spiritual kicking; a feast of nourishing worship; but with my head full of relevant and demanding actions of how to further continue to be a witness to God through our church’s outreach activities and at the various frontlines within my life. What a way to spend two days!”

Paul Finch



Presented by the Mission Initiative Group of
the Baptist Union of Scotland

As we have written previously in Connect, the Mission Initiative Group exists to support the work of the National Team as it relates to mission and mission strategy in our family of churches, additionally we want to resource churches in areas of mission. As we have looked at the ways we can do this, one key opportunity has become obvious to us - the telling of the stories of mission that are already happening around our Union.

We will continue to tell those stories here in Connect and in the coming months we hope to

add to that by releasing some videos of the work being done around Scotland. Right now though we have released a podcast, known as The MIGcast, which is providing an opportunity to dig a little further into the remarkable work being done by men, women and churches throughout the country. So far we have a conversation with Alan Donaldson looking at the big picture, discussing everything from his middle name to the future of the church in Scotland and we also have an insightful chat with Ali Laing about mission to and with younger generations. Both of these are available right now.

Those of you who enjoyed Martin Clarke and Hillview Community Church's story in last month's Connect, will find an interview with Martin in our next episode of The MIGcast digging into more detail about their experience of replanting the church. We also have upcoming episodes on church planting and on pioneering ministry in Scotland.

We sincerely hope that this will be a valuable resource for churches and church leaders.

The MIGcast can be found at scottishbaptist.com/migcast

Project:Vienna

Kirsty Parratt tells us her story of taking time out after studying to live out the mission of Jesus in the heart of Vienna.

About Kirsty

"I was born in Hungary but grew up and went to school in Glasgow and studied Biblical Studies at St Andrews. I lived briefly in Oxford and Istanbul before moving to Vienna in June 2017 to join the Project:Vienna team. I love coffee, languages and anything involving cooking, eating and telling stories with other people."



To find out more watch the video here.

<https://www.facebook.com/projectviennamissionalcommunity/videos/1043748545777839/>

More about Kirsty's experience

What drew me to Project:Vienna initially was the combination of so many of the things I love: theological study, church work, living overseas, interacting with people from other cultures, foreign languages, refugee ministry with a long-term commitment to integration and so on and so on.



I visited Vienna in March 2017 with a view to being a participant in Project:Vienna and a few months later found myself back there for a 2 year internship with part of my role being to help facilitate this program. It's safe to say that I pretty quickly fell in love with the church and its values and love of projects. Project:Vienna is a pretty unique combination of Bible School with church internship. As an intern in the church there are of course a lot of the everyday mundane jobs: cleaning and preparing food and setting up for services and conferences.

But there is also a lot of trust and responsibility given to interns. Project:Church is very much a community that seeks to empower others and help make their ideas reality. Project:Vienna is itself the fruit of that sort of empowerment of interns and former interns.

As someone who has felt drawn to ministry and church work in some capacity since before university, to be able to spend a year or two in a community like Project:Church trying out different areas of service and seeing first-hand the blessings and challenges of being such an ambitious, intercultural church is incredible. I've had the opportunity to preach in our Spanish, Farsi and German

services, to gain more experience in kids ministry (in multiple languages), to travel to various Austrian Baptist Union and EBF conferences, to sit in on leadership meetings and have a say in significant decisions. But it's also been important to experience the unglamorous parts of church work: the toilets that need to be cleaned every week, the never-ending recycling that needs to be taken out, the difficult conversations and the little frustrations with other people. And to see and experience a certain kind of living by faith - when you don't know if the church finances will be balanced at the end of the year or what to do when increasing numbers of your Farsi congregations receive negative answers at their asylum interviews, or where you'll house all the interns that keep showing up. To participate in 3 services every Sunday with worship in 4 languages and who knows how many different nationalities represented.

To see that this is what church can be: a place where anyone is welcome and accepted, where fun is definitely a priority, where eating together is valued highly, where no question is out of bounds and any ideas and contributions are welcomed and listened to, where you know and experience that the church really is your family. It's pretty special.



FIND OUT MORE ABOUT IT

For more information about Project:Vienna visit.
<https://www.projectvienna.at/home-en>

AGED 18-25 or KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS?

If you'd like to do your internship in a church in Scotland or even with us at the BUS then we have lots of exciting opportunities. Please email ali@scottishbaptist.org.uk for more information.

If you are reading this and know someone aged 18-25 then why not forward to them and who know perhaps they end up serving God in an internship in Austria, Scotland or even further afield.

Prayer Link

May

Duncan Street BC, Edinburgh -

We praise God for blessing the preaching of His Word, for spiritual growth in the fellowship and for the launch of our DSBC minis group and the links we're making into the community. Pray for folks to come to faith, for new believers to then be established, and for the fellowship to go on growing, serving and sharing.

Dundee Central BC -

We are so grateful to God for the way he is blessing. We give thanks for the growth of the church plants at Carnoustie and Lochee. Pray for us in the challenge of shaping Central ministries for the next phase of mission as we seek to build the paid pastoral team, particularly in the areas on women's and children's ministry.

May 6th

- Stuart Murdoch (Chaplain, Strathcarron Hospice)
- Dalbeattie Baptist Church
- Dalkeith Baptist Church
- Dedridge Baptist Church

May 13th

- Al Nicoll (RAF Chaplain)
- Dennistoun Baptist Church
- Denny Baptist Church
- Dingwall Baptist Church

May 20th

- Andrew Oliver (Chaplain, Royal Highland Fusilliers, 2nd Battalion)
- Drumchapel Baptist Church
- Dumbarton Baptist Church
- Dumfries Baptist Church

May 27th

- Jack Quinn (Workplace Chaplaincy Scotland)
- Duncan Street Baptist Church
- Dundee Central Baptist Church
- Dunfermline West Baptist Church

Denny BC – We give thanks for the steady growth in attendance and increased engagement within the life and mission of the church; our DNA groups which continue to be important to the spiritual development of participants and in the growth of the church. The children/youth work is flourishing and bringing us into contact with a number of unchurched families. Please pray for our involvement in the Denny & District Gala Day at the end of May, as we seek to deepen our connections with our community. We would value your prayers for the preachers who will be fulfilling the pulpit supply during the minister's sabbatical in June/July.

Dunfermline West BC - We give thanks that Anthony Luxton a student at Scottish Baptist College has taken up the call to pastor us on a part time basis. We pray that we will work together to further the cause of Christ in our community and build on our connection to the local primary school who use our hall for various activities.

Dalbeattie BC - We are thankful to God for the arrival of a new pastor and for a fresh sense of unity, joy and optimism following the tensions of recent times. Please pray for us as we try to develop meaningful one-to-one relationships with people in the town and as we contemplate an evangelistic mission for later on this year.

Dalkeith BC - We thank and praise God for tangible evidences of his continuing grace among us in these days, with the baptism of 2 believers on Easter Sunday morning. Please also pray that we would see many lives changed for God's glory through our forthcoming Christianity Explored Course.

Dennistoun BC - We give God thanks for the growth and development of our outreach ministries within our local community including; Conversation Cafe, Football Outreach, School Chaplaincy and ESOL (Teaching English as a Second or Other Language) Classes. We're praying that we are able to show the God's love to those connected to these areas (in both word and deed) and that we might be witness to God's transforming power in their lives.

Dumbarton BC - We thank God that Dumbarton Baptist Church is enjoying some positive momentum. We would really welcome your prayers as we develop evangelistic Bible study groups in partnership with Big Life ministries, a Prospects group to welcome people with learning disabilities into the church family and a bus outreach to local young people with The Message Trust, Alpha Scotland and a local church partner.

Al Nicoll - (RAF Chaplain)

- Thank God for just over 2 years of ministry at RAF Coningsby, where we have seen encouraging answers to prayer and spiritual growth in the Christian community. Pray for my new post as Chief Instructor at the Armed Forces Chaplaincy Centre, Amport House, where I started in mid-April. Pray for my wife Fi, son James and myself as we settle into a new home and community.

Jack Quinn (Workplace Chaplaincy Scotland)

- I'm grateful for the Baptist family's prayerful support at this time because it's a time of opportunity. I am entering a brand new sphere of chaplaincy service to over 3,000 workers who more than ever need the support of the Christian Church and I am your representative in that role. I am humbled by the challenge and excited by the prospects. This is a time of challenge for the fields are indeed white for harvest, but the next generation of chaplains are difficult to find. Pray for conviction within the Christian Church to serve God in this way. Give thanks for those who have stepped forward as volunteers here in the West and for staff who are anointed by God for this ministry. There is no better place to serve the Master in Chaplaincy.

Dumfries BC - We are thankful to

God for the provision of our new church centre and praise Him for His amazing provision. Please pray that we will steward our new building in a way that honours God in its three uses. 1. Church - for our own church family, services, ministries and evangelism and other churches 2. Community - as we welcome and serve the community groups and users 3. Commercial - as we open and run Cornerstone Café, welcome and serve Business, Council, Educational and other groups for meetings and conferencing. Pray that all will be done for the glory of God and the building of His kingdom.

Dedridge BC - We thank God for the

increase in numbers attending on a Sunday morning and for those involved in various church ministries. We are praying for an increase in young families coming, and we pray that the recent Easter outreach events will provide fruitful links in the community. Please pray that 7 week 'Empowered' course will be effective, and that the Lord will use what we learn to make us more effective at sharing his gospel.

Dingwall BC - Until recently we had

no children in church but now, several families, with up to 10 children, have started attending. We are also experiencing increased demand for use of our building by the local community. Please pray that God would equip and sustain us through this time of change.

Rev Brunton Scott (1926-2018)

Whilst in membership of Portobello Baptist Church, Brunton Scott sensed a call to Baptist Ministry and moved to Spurgeon's College, to prepare for what was to be a lifetime of Christian service in Scotland and South America.

The apostle Paul wrote, "I planted the seed, Apollos watered it but God has been making it grow." For many churches it was the ministry of Brunton Scott that God used to make things grow. From his earliest years in St Andrews Baptist Church, just after his graduation from Spurgeon's college, a small CU group began to blossom; and the then small church in St Andrews experienced packed evening services, baptisms and membership growth. Much of that fruitfulness came from the hospitality given by Brunton and Sheila as they opened up their home and hearts to those around.



Brunton and Sheila then moved to Brazil, to serve with the Baptist Missionary Society, where again churches grew under his leadership and many young people were disciplined into a lifetime of Christian service. After his first period of service with BMS, he served in Glasgow's Queens Park Baptist Church for 10 years. This already large church grew particularly amongst the youth. Many families were drawn to the church at this time, because Brunton the minister was so relaxed and friendly with the younger generation. Throughout his ministry, Brunton's preaching sought to build people up.

Following his second term of service with BMS, as a regional leader for South America, Sheila and Brunton returned to Kirkintilloch Baptist Church. During this period, Kirkintilloch Baptist church grew into one of Scotland's largest Baptist Churches. It was during his ministry at Kirkintilloch that Brunton served as President of the Baptist Union of Scotland. In 1983-84 Brunton travelled around our churches, held meetings in Europe with fellow Baptists and was involved in meetings with other denominational leaders in Scotland. The theme of his presidential message was, "one world, one task". Brunton founded his message on the theology of resurrection. "The Risen, Conquering Lord", calls us to, "Victorious mission in the world." "It was the resurrection that broke the power of demonic forces, enabling us to cross the boundaries set by humanity, to become witnesses and participants, one with Christ, in fulfilment of the purpose of God."

Brunton's understanding of mission was what has become to be known as 'integral mission': the mission of God for justice and righteousness, for salvation and transformation. He was clear in calling our churches to be united in our diversity, seeing both unity and diversity as key witnesses to the nation.

We give thanks for the ministry of Brunton Scott among our churches and pray for his children Donald, Andrew, Rosemary and Callum and their families at this time of loss.

